

Subj: **RE: Electrotpe half cents**
 Date: 11/01/2005 10:38:14 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdr@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

I had been meaning to email you and tell you I was deep in work.....have renumbered to a non-sequential system.....hopefully, for the last time.

I have not forgotten about the half cents.....will get to them soon, as I am about done with the gold book.

On to something else.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
 To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
 Sent: 11/1/2005 1:51:34 PM
 Subject: Electrotpe half cents

Dear JD:

I presume you are concentrating on completion of your US gold book but I presume you saw an extensive recent write up of early \$5 gold in quite some detail. I presume that there is no need to cite it as you probably did not use it. Many of us look forward to your publication.

As far as your sending us the Half cent electros I know you have not forgotten but I want to remind you again.

My best. Eric

Wednesday, November 02, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Electrotype half cents**
Date: 11/01/2005 1:51:27 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com

Dear JD:

I presume you are concentrating on completion of your US gold book but I presume you saw an extensive recent write up of early \$5 gold in quite some detail. I presume that there is no need to cite it as you probably did not use it. Many of us look forward to your publication. As far as your sending us the Half cent electros I know you have not forgotten but I want to remind you again.

My best.

Eric

Subj: hi
 Date: 11/17/2005 9:36:08 A.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdrc@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Hi Eric,

Hope all is well.

Finishing up the Bass early gold book, starting a couple of new projects, so keeping real busy, of course. Hoped you would make it out to the recent St. Louis show, but since it was so far out (St. Charles), I guessed you would not be there. Will be there in the Spring for the St. Louis show, so hope to stop by then.....

Have a couple of questions (actually one question.....and a request).

When asked recently would we label the Brasher doubloons as \$15 (by the Bank of New York standards, as shown by the 1992 article), responded yes with no hesitation, as the Standish Barry piece was of about the same weight (the recent Eliasberg discovery).

That made me think about your George Washington gold eagle (at least I believe you told me it was an eagle).....so, that is the question:

Does your coin conform to the Bank of New York standard for what a \$10 coin would be?

The request has to do with research on the early gold book.....

In researching the 1804 Plain 4 Proof eagle, I have heard a rumor and need to either prove it or disprove it.....

Do you have the photo (or maybe Ken Bressett has it) for the King of Siam set in your 1962 book on the 1804 dollar? If so, can I have a copy or either borrow yours for a week or so.

By the way, the rumor I heard about the 1804 Plain 4 eagle was that it was traded out of the King of Siam set for the inferior Baldenhofer coin. This, if true, happened between 1962-circa 1977, as the coin pictured in Breen's Proof book (published 1977) had the coin that is currently in the King of Siam set. Your picture should prove whether this rumor is true or not, as the picture used in your 1962 book had to have been taken in that year (or no earlier than when it was bought in England.....1960, I believe).

Thanks in advance for your help, as always.....

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
 jdrc@mindspring.com
 EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Thursday, November 17, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: hi**
Date: 11/17/2005 2:44:05 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: **EricNumis**
To: jdr@mindspring.com
BCC: KBressett@pcisys.net

Dear JD:

As to the \$15 theory I have not studied it enough to have an opinion. Is it based upon the weight of the Brasher doubloons or the doubloons in circulation and which mint or period? How did the value come out so even. Starting from the value you may be putting the cart before the horse. The mention of a Maryland silver piece to relate to the standard is quite strange as New York had its own money of account system in 1787 and Maryland had three money of account systems then, none of which were the same as that of New York. As far as the 1792 Washington gold piece it does not conform to any of the legal requirements of the US Gold pieces and was intended to try to grease the wheels for a copper coinage contract. It is five years after the Brasher pieces. I know nothing about the switching of the 1804 dated Eagle in the Siam set but either or both Ken and I probably have an early photo of the set but there was a picture in the book on page 70. The one shown weighed 270 1/2 grains. What does the present one in the set weigh? The weight may be the solution. I am sending a copy of this to Ken. Tell me what you know but let me stuff myself with turkey first.

My best.

Eric

Subj: **Re: 1804 Eagle**
 Date: 11/18/2005 11:47:09 A.M. Central Standard Time
 From: kbressett@pcisys.net
 To: EricNumis@aol.com, jdrc@mindspring.com
 CC: Steve@rcw1.com

From: "John Dannreuther" <jdrc@mindspring.com>
 To: "Eric Newman" <EricNumis@aol.com>
 Subject: hi
 Date: Thu, 17 Nov 2005 09:34:26 -0600

Hi Eric,

Hope all is well. Finishing up the Bass early gold book, starting a couple of new projects, so keeping real busy, of course.

In researching the 1804 Plain 4 Proof eagle, I have heard a rumor and need to either prove it or disprove it.....

Do you have the photo (or maybe Ken Bressett has it) for the King of Siam set in your 1962 book on the 1804 dollar? If so, can I have a copy or either borrow yours for a week or so.

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Thanks in advance for your help, as always.....

Best,

JD

John Dannreuther
jdrc@mindspring.com
 EarthLink Revolves Around You.

Good Morning to all,

I believe that I can set the 1804 \$10 rumor to rest. Last month I was with Steve Contursi when he purchased the King of Siam Proof set. I had the pleasure of carefully examining all of the coins in the set, and took special note of the Eagle. Steve had also heard the rumor about the Eagle coin being swapped, and asked my opinion. I am sending Steve a copy of this correspondence as a follow-up to that investigation. Incidentally, just two weeks earlier I had inventoried the Bass collection (on display in the ANA Museum) and carefully inspected his gold and silver specimens of the 1804 plain 4 \$10. For the record, the Siam specimen is at least two grades better than the Bass coin.

I have the original photo of the Siam set that was taken when it made its first appearance in this country in 1962. It is not a very detailed image, but good enough to positively identify each of the coins. In comparing this to the coins that are now (encapsulated) in the set, I can state without a doubt that they are all the identical coins. This was also Steve Contursi's opinion when we looked at images in California at the time of the sale.

The Baldenhofer specimen is pictured in Breen's book, and in the 1962 Newman/Bressett book. It is far inferior to the Siam specimen, and probably poorer than the Bass piece. I believe that the fourth specimen is the one pictured in the Guth/Garrett book "100 Gratest U.S. Coins." But I can not be sure of that because of the photography.

The Siam set has only been slightly changed since 1960. A half-dime, and Jackson medal have been added to the set (around 1990, I think) and in some pictures the quarter and half cent have been switched from their original position in the case. That was

Saturday, November 26, 2005 America Online: EricNumis

probably done accidentally at one time because they are just about the same size, but that doesn't matter much now that they are sealed in plastic.

Ken

Kenneth Bressett
P.O. Box 60145
Colorado Springs, CO 80960
kbressett@pcisys.net

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 12/17/2005 10:50:02 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com

Dear JD:

The engraving of dentils on early US coinage is discussed in detail on pages 14 and 15 (with illustrations) of Edgar E. Souders' new (copyrighted 2006) book entitled BUST HALF FEVER (second edition) which I just received. I do not agree with all that is said but it has some very important observations. If you have been in touch with him before then let me know. If you need the pages I will Fax them to you or you can order the book from Money Tree.

I hope this is helpful in your BD gold book unless it has gone to press already. Happy holidays. Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 12/19/2005 9:39:03 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: jdrc@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Eric:

Don't know why the Fax is not working, as I heard it ring.....901 523-2995 is correct.....if that still does not work, just mail it, as I wwill be here until Jan. 2, when I leave for the FUN show. Probably will turn in the manuscript there.....hope, hope

On some of the early coins, I believe a single punch was used, as the variance between dentil spacing on early gold coins is too much, in my opinion, to believe some type of gang punch was used.

Certainly, some of the early dentils seem to be ganged punched.....check out the doubled dentils below the date on the Browning 2 variety of the 1796 quarter, for instance. This doubling indicates a gang punch for the dentils.

HOWEVER, I have never seen doubled dentils on an early gold coin, but HAVE seen dentils squashed together.....these seem to me to be singly punched ones. The variance in size, shape, spacing, etc. seems to me can only happen with a single punch.

I think they used several methods to make the dentils on the early coins.....using some type of graver's tool after they were punched seems to be the method of "cleaning them up"at least that is my thoughts on the early gold coins I have studied.

The more I study them, however, the more I realize that we really do not know how some of the things we see were done.

The edges also are a real puzzle. I have examined the edge of numerous early coins recently and I am SURE that dimes and quarters had their reeding applied by the Castaing machine. However, the gold coins may have had their edges applied by some type of collar.....segmented, I guess, as there are no ejection marks like you have when a close collar applies the reeding.

After John Reich came to the Mint in 1807, the coins are more round, so maybe all coins after he arrived were struck in some type of collar.

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: jdrc@mindspring.com
Sent: 12/18/2005 12:16:02 PM
Subject: Re: (no subject)

JD:

I tried to fax you the two pages but it will not go thru. Please check your fax machine. I do not agree with Souder as he does not mention a positioning element as part of a gang punch. Nor does he explain how the dentils are smoothly connected. He does show several examples of different size and positioned dentils. Poor Reich got tired doing the punching sometimes. Eric

Subj: **Dentils**
Date: 12/21/2005 12:22:07 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
BCC: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu

Dear JD:

I have reread what Souders said about dentils in his second edition. He has indicated that he believes that the early US mint employees could not make gang punches which could hold up. They made and used beautiful letter punches which were much more complex than gang punches. I believe they could make gang punches for dentils. They probably made a several gang punches by hand (like letters) and the very slight width differences in dentils enabled them to avoid gaps or partial dentils.

What a fascinating problem.

The errors in punching dentils are few and far between and well balanced dentils are usually the normal. I still believe the dentil punch was a two prong punch, one a positional guide and one a full punch. Any perimeter imperfections between separate punch impressions could later have been polished or tooled away using a lathe turning of the die on the outer part and a hand instrument where the dentils touch each other. The engravers were so extremely skilled that the blow of the hammer was very uniform as indicated by the punching of lettering into the die.

How do you feel about all this?

Eric

WDs and begin the adding of the dentilated border. In the past, it was believed that the dentilated border of the CBH WD was created using a "gang" punch. This is a term used to describe a punch with more than one dentil on it. Many believed a double dentil punch was incorporated for the border ornamentation. Supposedly, this was placed on the edge of the WD and the first blow would indent two identical dentils. The punch was then moved over one dentil while the other dentil of the punch rested in half of the indentation (one dentil cavity), from the original punching. Given a whack with a hammer, this in effect made three completed dentils on the WD. This process was believed to have continued around the entire border thus evenly spacing the dentils. The problem with this theory is the fact that some dentils would show a stair-step effect from the punch being moved over and sunk. It does not. As a blow of force creating the indentations could not be controlled well with a simple hammer, varying depths, within the singular dentil should have occurred. They did not. And this effect IS NOT evident on any dentilated border of a CBH. Further if a double dentil punch had been used in the creation of CBHs then there should have been no variation in dentil width or length.

Technologically, the Mint was not advanced enough to create gang punches. Based on this lack of any prior use it is easy to conclude that gang-type punches would have broken up much too quickly. The cost alone would not have been justified. Also, this gang punch breakage problem is the exact reason why the dates on the WDs were punched one at a time. Gang punches simply would not hold up. To back these statements up, one only need view a dozen or so dentilated borders on CBHs. Some dentils are longer, overlapping, deeper, wider, thinner (but not stair-stepped), doubled, etc.

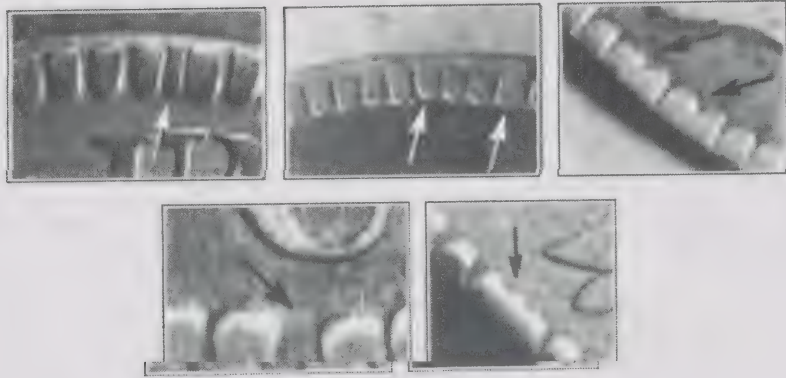
Therefore, the dentilated border was not created using a gang punch but was in fact at first engraved along the outer edge face and in the later years of the series *perhaps* punched into the WDs.

Reich and Kneass were very talented, but occasionally an error in judgment would cause a dentil to overlap, double (because too much metal was removed), or lengthen.

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I am not convinced. I think a peacocking dentil design was attached to the full dentil as part of the penny punch or puncher.



The dentils were engraved one at a time and upon close examination they did not always come out as perfectly as many believe. Many dentils are wider, longer, narrower, thicker, doubled, tripled and even twin doubled! All of this was done to make adjustments so that they "appear" to be perfectly matched. Some were even missing leaving a gap that CBH specialists refer to as a "leaking" dentil (bottom left). (Photographs by the Author)



Dentils Added to the Obverse and Reverse Working Dies

Lastly with dentilated border complete, he would begin the process of punching in the smaller devices. To do this he would take a small numeral, star (not a gang punch of stars as some believe), or letter and he would punch in the smaller devices,

Subj: **Spikes**
Date: 02/07/2006 4:47:25 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com

Dear JD:

When I started to read the Fivaz book on counterfeit US gold I notice on page 5 an illustration and comment on spikes projecting inward from the dentils. Then I see your name in the contributors. Then I see a comment by Randy Campbell that 3% of the spikes are genuine. I do not see stated any explanation for the spikes being good or bad or a reason for their existence. Why don't you ask them what they know if they know anything specific?

There is still time to change your book if you learn anything worthwhile.

Eric

Subj: **Re: Spikes**
Date: 02/08/2006 11:53:52 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: jdr@mindspring.com

Dear JD:

I dreamed about the coinage spikes last night and came to a new conclusion.

On the illustration in the counterfeit book the spikes take off diagonally sometimes as well as straight. These are on the modern counterfeits I presume. Touching up the dies would not do that.

Therefore since the situation occurred in the 18th century at the US Mint and in the 20th century in Syria, Italy, etc. (one using die cutting technique and the other using casting technique) it must have come from expansion in the course of the hardening of the finished die when it was immersed in liquid for cooling and the cracks developed at the weak points which apparently were some inner ends of the dentil depressions. The shape of dentils in the die must have left a weak area next to some dentil ends which cracked open by the sudden cooling in the hardening.

Put this through your noodle and tell me what you think. Eric

Subj: **Re: Opa's 95th Birthday Dinner**
Date: 02/07/2006 4:47:44 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [Lindaschap](#)
To: [EricNumis](#)

this ribaldry deserves a bellyaching laugh
but the party is on us loveLuu

Subj: **Re: Presbury Bank Note Reporters**
 Date: 02/07/2006 5:30:14 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: art@dgi.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Mr. Newman,

I'm sorry that it has taken so long to give you a proper reply. My travel schedule has been brutal lately.

First, a little about myself. I am fifty-nine, married and a proud father of one daughter. She just graduated with a degree in Astro Physics, International Relations with a minor in Russian. My wife and I are principal owners of a small company, Dynamic Graphics, Inc. that produces computer software. The software models the geology and the location of oil for oil companies or geology and the location of pollutants for environmental firms.

For collecting, I have a complete collection of regular issue fractional currency and wide margin specimen notes. I have a good, but not remarkable collection of experimental and proof fractional currency notes. I have been collecting and studying counterfeit fractional notes for about 9 years. Strangely enough, the counterfeits are the main source of my passion and joy in collecting and research.

Thanks for finding the New York Times article. Unfortunately, I already have a copy of that issue. It is indeed a great article. I am looking for the July 2nd, 1867 New York Times article about the Brockway trial. I have a microfilm copy, but not an original.

I have a proposal for the June, 1850 Presbury & Co's Counterfeit Detector. As you have a substantial library, you most likely have a good source for book binding. I would like to send you the Presbury and three unbound copies of the current state of my Fractional Currency Counterfeit book. If you could bind all three, keep the Presbury and a copy of the Fractional Currency Counterfeit book and send back the other two bound copies, I would be happy. I paid about \$385 for the Presbury.

I hope that you would find the book on Fractional Counterfeits interesting.

If this interests you, please let me know.

I will be on vacation for two weeks starting tomorrow. I will be able to check my email tomorrow and will leave the material with my secretary with your address if you are interested. I have interesting dust covers made which I will need to adjust for the final thickness of the bound book.

And at your convenience, I would like to meet you and see your library.

Thanks,

Art Paradis
art@dgi.com
 (925) 943-7293 (home)
 (510) 522-0700 x 3129 (office)

EricNumis@aol.com wrote:

> Dear Mr. Paradis:
 > In going over my open mail file for 2005 I noticed that I had not

Subj: **Re: Spikes**
Date: 02/08/2006 3:27:09 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: jdrc@mindspring.com
To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:
I will have to dream about them tonight to absorb what you are saying.....

On the early gold coins (BD-5 & 6 of 1795 half eagles), I believe they are tool marks.....but, you may be correct about the counterfeit dies.....

will think about what you have written.

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: jdrc@mindspring.com
Sent: 2/8/2006 11:53:56 AM
Subject: Re: Spikes

Dear JD:

I dreamed about the coinage spikes last night and came to a new conclusion. On the illustration in the counterfeit book the spikes take off diagonally sometimes as well as straight. These are on the modern counterfeits I presume. Touching up the dies would not do that.

Therefore since the situation occurred in the 18th century at the US Mint and in the 20th century in Syria, Italy, etc. (one using die cutting technique and the other using casting technique) it must have come from expansion in the course of the hardening of the finished die when it was immersed in liquid for cooling and the cracks developed at the weak points which apparently were some inner ends of the dentil depressions. The shape of dentils in the die must have left a weak area next to some dentil ends which cracked open by the sudden cooling in the hardening.

Put this through your noodle and tell me what you think. Eric

Subj: **Re: Spikes**
Date: 02/09/2006 10:43:20 A.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: jdro@mindspring.com

Dear JD:

The 1795 eagle spikes cannot be tool marks. They are much too perfect in form. In my opinion they probably are natural splits in the die caused by abrupt temperature change from red hot to oil or water immersion. Soft iron dies before hardening can have tension or stress deformation in them caused by hammering or force applied by punching in the dentils. The rounded tip of the dentil punch can cause a strong spreading pressure inward resulting in weakness which can split open when the temperature is abruptly changed. The split would create a spike shape, narrowing as it spread inwardly. Certainly the counterfeit makers did not produce their spikes by voluntary action as they just had the same surprising result as the die makers did in 1795.

Look at what happened to the spiked chin of the 1804 half cent. The metal surface of the die split off during usage in striking, resulting in a similar but wider spike pointing inward. The dentil spikes seem to be just a sophisticated die break.

I forgot to ask you whether there were any 1795 eagles struck prior to the spiked ones from the same die as there were in the 1804 half cent die situation.

Am I beginning to convince you? Eric

- > received a reply from you with respect to my 11/04/05 message to you.
- > I believe you informed my son or me that you are writing a book or
- > article on counterfeit US fractional currency and that you had a rather
- > complete collection of material related to that subject.
- > In trying to find something to exchange with you I located in
- > my numismatic library an original New York Times newspaper dated October
- > 14, 1864 (Vol. XIII - No. 4074) with the first left column on page 1
- > entitled COUNTERFEITING Great Haul of Rascals Seizure of \$70,000 of
- > Spurious Fractional Currency Seizure of Dies, Plates, Presses,
- > etc. This is followed by text. Then there follows another article on
- > another arrest and seizure of \$30,000 of counterfeit fifty cents
- > fractional currency article with dies and plates. The price of the
- > newspaper was FOUR CENTS.
- >
- > If this intrigues you please tell me a little about yourself and perhaps
- > we can work out something mutually advantageous.
- > Keep collecting and writing. Eric P. Newman
- > 6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis MO 63105
- > Tel: 314 727 0850 Fax 314 727 0820 Email above

Subj: **Re: Spikes**
 Date: 02/09/2006 12:09:57 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdrc@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

The 1795 half eagle, not eagle, spikes seem too random to me, but you make a lot of sense with your explanation.....

Will think about it some more.....need to change the book, of course, as I just sent it to Whitman!!!!

Will talk to Fred Weinberg and some other "coin nerds" here at the show.....

Will advise their thoughts.....

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: jdrc@mindspring.com
Sent: 2/9/2006 10:43:50 AM
Subject: Re: Spikes

Dear JD:

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Sent: 2/9/2006 10:43:50 AM
Subject: Re: Spikes

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Am I beginning to convince you? Eric

Another of my ideas met with less favor. I had suggested we print my sayings on ^{money} ~~the bills~~. Might as well put good advice where people will see it. I offered mottos like, "A penny saved is a penny earned," and my personal favorite, "To counterfeit is Death." They liked the idea, if not the sayings. Even now, US money displays a motto, "E Pluribus Unum," – out of many, one. Not as catchy as mine, but certainly ^{prestigious} ~~distinguished~~ and patriotic.

Then and now, ~~in every age~~, money and its value remain a topic of polite conversation and heated debate. There is a bottom line. Let me put it this way: "If you wish to know the value of money—go and try to borrow some."

But time is wasting and I'm sure you've heard my ^{comment} ~~assessment~~ that "Time is money."

You came here ^{to see} ~~seeking~~ treasure and you will find it. ~~Look around~~. You're ^{surrounded by} ~~immersed in~~ money. Peer past the face-value, ^{or collector's value} in the displays. The riches you seek are hidden in the stories behind ^{and} every coin ~~an~~ bill. Look closely, read carefully and you will be rewarded.

Sue
Your changes were
wonderful.
Sue
6/8/04

Subj: (no subject)
Date: 02/10/2006 12:25:10 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
BCC: gaspar@wuchem.wustl.edu

Dear JD:

I checked with Dr. Peter Gaspar about the stresses built up in iron products which make them brittle. He tells me that the engraving of a soft die by punching results in "work hardening". He also indicates that minting of coins with a finished hardened die also results in work hardening. Work hardened iron or steel results in stressed areas which deteriorate and break. When a soft iron die is hardened by being heated to a red hot condition and then rapidly cooled for hardening there are stressed areas which result and for that reason the hardened metal is heated again (but not to such a high temperature) to relieve those stressed areas and this is called tempering. Tempering relieves stressed areas to a great extent.

I hope I have stated this accurately. You probably are aware of all this but it certainly fits what I have proposed for cause of the existence of spikes from coin die breaks . Eric

Subj: **Re: Spikes**
 Date: 02/11/2006 12:30:52 A.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdrc@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

You made me think more about the spikes (thanks, maybe you are right) BUT,

here is the problem I have with your explanation.....if you are correct and the spikes happened in the cooling of the die, why do the spikes go "through" the lettering.....would not the lettering explode?

The lettering goes "over" spikes and there is nothing that happened to the lettering.....if your scenario is true, then there should be something on some of the letters, anyway.....the letters are perfect and the spikes all come out and "under" letters, indicating that some sort of tool made them, in my opinion, of course. If they are splits from weakened areas from the punch, then the lettering would also be in those "weakened" areas and also should be affected!

Can you explain the perfect lettering? If you can, I will certainly change the book.....if not, I believe my idea is correct, as the S/D in STATES indicates a "sloppy" die puncher, anyway!

You always make me think!

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: jdrc@mindspring.com
Sent: 2/9/2006 10:43:50 AM
Subject: Re: Spikes

Dear JD:

The 1795 eagle spikes cannot be tool marks. They are much too perfect in form. In my opinion they probably are natural splits in the die caused by abrupt temperature change from red hot to oil or water immersion. Soft iron dies before hardening can have tension or stress deformation in them caused by hammering or force applied by punching in the dentils. The rounded tip of the dentil punch can cause a strong spreading pressure inward resulting in weakness which can split open when the temperature is abruptly changed. The split would create a spike shape, narrowing as it spread inwardly. Certainly the counterfeit makers did not produce their spikes by voluntary action as they

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just had the same surprising result as the die makers did in 1795.

Look at what happened to the spiked chin of the 1804 half cent. The metal surface of the die split off during usage in striking, resulting in a similar but wider spike pointing inward.

The dentil spikes seem to be just a sophisticated die break.

I forgot to ask you whether there were any 1795 eagles struck prior to the spiked ones from the same die as there were in the 1804 half cent die situation.

Am I beginning to convince you? Eric

Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
 Date: 02/12/2006 3:52:19 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdrcl@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

Now that is a theory I can go with.....seems more possible.....

The spikes were created before the die was tempered (per the perfect lettering that was punched into the die after the spikes but before tempering).

Now, if your new theory is correct (seems to be as logical as my graver's tool theory), why would the letters still be perfect? It would seem that if a letter was punched over a "spike" in the die, that the letter would be affected.....the "spike" area should be weakened, so when the letter was punched into the die, one would think the die would "spread" a little in that area.....does not seem to have happened, but there may be another explanation for the "perfect" lettering.

Will think about the new theory and let you know if I can reconcile your new theory with unaffected letters.....as Fred Weinberg noted, the spikes seem to be caused by a tool, but your theory of the die splitting as they were punched into the die does make a lot of sense.....

There is so much we don't know.....just have the coins as our evidence.....trying to figure out what happened to the dies to make the coins appear like they do is a tough job.....I need to talk to the guys from the Gallery Mint.....will see them in Atlanta in April, but that is too late for my book, as I will probably not be able to make changes after mid-March.....they are trying to have it done by Atlanta.....if not, Columbus, Ohio for the CSNS show.....I hope.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: jdrcl@mindspring.com
Sent: 2/11/2006 12:08:26 PM
Subject: Re: (no subject)

Dear JD:

I appreciated being informed as to your further findings on the spikes. I change my mind with the facts and am glad to do so. I have no interest in trying to convince others that I am right. From what you now point out I have another possibility as to how the spikes could happen.

My new theory is:

When the dentil punch was hit by the engaver into the die the die could have split then and there causing the spike depression. The engraver's hammer blow may have been too hard on some occasions. Those spike depressions seem very perfect and not hand done. The engraver either did not notice the splits or did not feel it was material enough to begin over again on a new die.

If he was a bartender it would spike his punch.

Eric

Subj: **Spiked**
Date: 02/14/2006 1:53:08 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: [EricNumis](#)
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com

Dear JD:

I believe it was very important when you pointed out of that in some situations a letter was punched over a spike. Would you give me a list of the instances when that occurred?

When a spike existed it does not follow that a letter punched over the pointed end of the spike would result in further damage. The spike split is a horizontal impact and the letter punch is a vertical impact from an instrument with recesses. The stress if it was in that letter spot in the first place had probably been relieved by the split and no longer existed there.

Can you leave the reader with a choice of why spikes happened unless the evidence now points too much in one direction or another? Readers like to make decisions.

I am glad you showed me to be wrong on the spikes being caused by quenching and am glad you tend to agree with me in the dentil punch pressure cause.

Eric

Subj: **RE: Spiked**
 Date: 02/14/2006 2:30:47 P.M. Central Standard Time
 From: jdrc@mindspring.com
 To: EricNumis@aol.com

Dear Eric:

I hope they will let me rewrite that section, as I want to present your theory (I do agree it has merit, but still lean towards a sharp instrument as the cause of the spikes).

The photo in my book shows the E of STATES with the spike "going through" the top of the E.....it appears as a raised area at the end of the top serif.

Also, there is a spike above the 2nd T of STATES that ends flat.....slightly diagonal, NOT with a sharp point, as nearly all the others do.

In favor of your theory, there are many that fade at the end, possibly indicating a stress fracture, as you think.....

however, a sharp tool would also create this effect (as the tool is "lifted" from the die, the area affected would be less, thus thinning to a point).

Whichever is correct, I hope I can present both.....don't think it is too late.

Best,

JD

----- Original Message -----

From:
To: JDRC@Mindspring.com
Sent: 2/14/2006 1:53:12 PM
Subject: Spiked

Dear JD:

I believe it was very important when you pointed out of that in some situations a letter was punched over a spike. Would you give me a list of the instances when that occurred?

When a spike existed it does not follow that a letter punched over the pointed end of the spike would result in further damage. The spike split is a horizontal impact and the letter punch is a vertical impact from an instrument with recesses. The stress if it was in that letter spot in the first place had probably been relieved by the split and no longer existed there.

Can you leave the reader with a choice of why spikes happened unless the evidence now points too much in one direction or another? Readers like to make decisions.

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